

Dear Community Member:

The Department of Energy's (DOE) announcement last week concerning the Surplus Plutonium Disposition Record of Decision (ROD) represents an important milestone in the DOE's continuing efforts to remove all plutonium from the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (Site). The ROD, announced January 4 by Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson, clears the path for the Site to proceed with shipments of plutonium materials to the Savannah River Site (SRS) near Aiken, South Carolina.

This is an important component of the DOE's efforts to safely remove all plutonium and Special Nuclear Material (SNM) from the Denver metropolitan area and safely accelerate the cleanup and closure of the Site. Several shipping campaigns will begin in the months ahead to remove the plutonium materials. Among the efforts scheduled to begin in the near future are the following:

- Classified plutonium metal products to SRS.
The Site has completed preparations to begin shipment of classified plutonium metal to SRS. The metal products will be processed at SRS to remove the classified characteristics and the resulting material will be packaged there for long-term storage. The first shipment will occur during the first quarter of calendar year 2000 with shipments scheduled to be completed by September 2000.
- Unclassified plutonium metal and oxide to SRS in 50-year containers.
According to current schedules, operation of the Plutonium Packaging System to package plutonium metal and oxides in "3013" containers at the Site will begin in February 2000. Shipment of the completed "3013" container packages to SRS will begin during the first quarter of calendar year 2000.

Completing the transfer of the Site's plutonium inventory (other than holdup in piping and ventilation ducts) to approved receiver sites by September 30, 2002, is essential for the Site to safely achieve closure according to current accelerated schedules. Removal of the plutonium will greatly reduce the Site security requirements and reduce security costs. The money saved from security will be placed into the decontamination and decommissioning of the Site's remaining plutonium buildings to help accelerate closure schedules.

Community Member
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The Site will continue to provide periodic updates on the status of material shipments in the future. If you have any questions, you may contact Matt McCormick of my staff at (303) 966-4776.

Sincerely,

Paul Golan
Acting Manager